

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA**
Norfolk Division

AARON MARKEITH GERALD, #342710,

Petitioner,

v.

ACTION NO.
2:07cv36

GENE M. JOHNSON, Director of the
Virginia Department of Corrections,

Respondent.

FINAL ORDER

This matter was initiated by petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. The petition alleges violation of petitioner's constitutional rights pertaining to his conviction of possession of a firearm after having been convicted of a felony on February 15, 2005, in the Circuit Court of the City of Norfolk, as a result of which he was sentenced to serve five years in the Virginia penal system.

The petition was referred to a United States Magistrate Judge pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and (C) and Rule 72 of the Rules of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia for report and recommendation. Report of the Magistrate Judge was filed on May 29, 2007, recommending dismissal of the petition. By copy of the report, each party was advised of his right to file written objections to the findings and recommendations made by the Magistrate Judge. The Court has received no objections to the United States Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation and the time for filing same has expired.

The Court does hereby accept the findings and recommendations set forth in the report of

the United States Magistrate Judge filed May 29, 2007, and it is therefore ORDERED that the petition be DENIED and DISMISSED and that judgment be entered in favor of the respondent, since petitioner's claim was previously adjudicated by the Virginia Supreme Court on the merits and based on the holding in Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668 (1984), and none of the statutory exceptions applies that would allow this Court to review the claim on the merits.

Petitioner may appeal from the judgment entered pursuant to this Final Order by filing a written notice of appeal with the Clerk of this court, United States Courthouse, 600 Granby Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23510, within 30 days from the date of entry of such judgment.

Petitioner has failed to demonstrate "a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right," therefore, the Court declines to issue any certificate of appealability pursuant to Rule 22(b) of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure. See Miller-El v. Cockrell, 123 S.Ct. 1029, 1039 (2003).

The Clerk shall mail a copy of this Final Order to the petitioner and to counsel of record for the respondent.

/s/
Jerome B. Friedman
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Norfolk, Virginia

July 2, 2007